

8910 Westhaven Ct.
St. Louis, MO 63126
October 16, 2000

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U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5600 Fishers Lane
Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20785

To Whom It May Concern:

If I were to name the vilest, most despicable, insufferable creature on earth, I could think of nothing that fits that description more than the inhumane being called "man" who boasts of his ability to kill, maim and destroy what he considers lesser creatures. This offense against animals is repulsive, disgusting and loathsome.

In addition to posing an additional risk for bacterial contamination, there is evidence that some of these downed animals may be infected with Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy which has been linked to the fatal human illness known as Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.


Granted, it is almost impossible to move downed animals humanely so they are pushed with tractors or dragged with chains resulting in injuries ranging from bruises, abrasions, broken bones and torn ligaments.

It is estimated that 90% of downed animal injuries can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals should serve as an incentive for the meat industry to prevent downed animals initially.

The downed animal trade must end along with the intolerable suffering inflicted upon these creatures. I URGE YOU NOW TO PROHIBIT THE SLAUGHTER OF DOWNED ANIMALS _ DOCKET # 98P- 0151/CP1.

Hopefully, in some future millennium mankind will have advanced in consciousness to totally exclude living creatures from his diet.

Very truly yours,

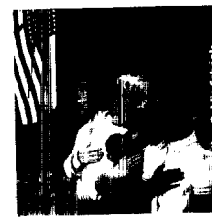

Maxine B. Gates

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Maxine Gates
8910 Westhaven Ct.
Saint Louis, MO 63126



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5600 Fishers Lane
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